

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 304688
ORIGIN SS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /002 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: BLUM
APPROVED BY S/S-O: OTTO
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
1 COPY FOR S/S-O

----- 026471 /46

O 161106Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO DIRNSA IMMEDIATE
DIA IMMEDIATE
TREASURY IMMEDIATE
DOD IMMEDIATE
USCG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 304688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SPAIN: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS COMPLICATE ELECTION
TIMING

MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY UNDER SECRETARY FOR PLANNING
CALLE INSISTED TO EMBASSY MADRID DECEMBER 10 THAT ELECTIONS
WILL BE HELD MARCH 21. IN CALLE'S VIEW:

--DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WILL REQUIRE
STABILIZATION MEASURES BEFORE JUNE, AND THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT FEELS IT LACKS BOTH THE MANDATE AND THE
POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE NECESSARY SACRIFICES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 304688

--VOTERS WILL FAVOR MODERATE, CENTRIST AND CENTER-
RIGHT PARTIES.

--IF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE NOT DEALT WITH EFFECTIVELY,
THE RESULTANT POLITICAL POLARIZATION AND RADICALIZA-
TION WILL CAUSE SEVERE PROBLEMS IN THE ELECTIONS FOUR

YEARS HENCE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ABSTAIN FROM FURTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN OIL PRICES MAY PROVIDE A CONVENIENT EXCUSE FOR EARLY ACTION. THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT ALSO TAKE RIGOROUS ECONOMIC STEPS AND MOVE THE ELECTIONS TO APRIL OR MAY IF THE ECONOMY DETERIORATES MORE RAPIDLY THAN ANTICIPATED. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 9418, 12/14.)

2. THE NINE LIVES OF HAFIZ ASAD

EMBASSY DAMASCUS REPORTS THAT A COUP AGAINST ASAD PLANNED BY A GROUP OF ALAWITE MILITARY OFFICERS FAILED IN EARLY DECEMBER BECAUSE WORD LEAKED TO AUTHORITIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS LATEST MANIFESTATION OF DISCONTENT SUGGESTS ASAD'S SUCCESSES IN LEBANON AND EGYPT HAVE NOT ENDED DOMESTIC CHALLENGES TO HIS POSITION. DISCOVERY OF THE CONSPIRACY DEMONSTRATES ASAD'S ABILITY TO THWART HIS OPPOSITION, BUT SHOWS HE MUST MEND POLITICAL FENCES WITH FELLOW ALAWITES. (SECRET) DAMASCUS 8542, 12/14.)

3. KHAMA COMMENTS ON RHODESIA

IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR NORLAND DECEMBER 14, BOTSWANA'S PRESIDENT KHAMA VOLUNTEERED THAT THE "FAULT IS NOT ALL ON THE SMITH SIDE" FOR SLOW PROGRESS AT GENEVA. HOWEVER, KHAMA CONDEMNED SMITH FOR REJECTING THE UK OFFER OF A SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 304688

"HIGH COMMISSIONER" TYPE ROLE DURING THE TRANSITION, COMMENTING THAT THIS SEEMED THE ONE COMPROMISE "ACCEPTABLE TO MOST OF US." HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GROWING NUMBER OF BORDER INCURSIONS, KIDNAPPINGS, AND MURDERS BY RHODESIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES WAS PUSHING HIS GOVERNMENT TO THE LIMIT OF ITS PATIENCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) GABORONE 2306, 12/15.) KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, POLITICAL STABILITY, PERSONAL OPINION, GOVERNMENT REFORM, MORNING SUMMARY, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE304688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: BLUM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760463-0302
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761236/aaaabfds.tel
Line Count: 104
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, PINT, PINS, SP, SY, BC, RH, (KHAMA, SERETSE M), (ASAD, HAFIZ AL)
To: NSA DIA TRSY MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006